"Often the best clinicians received the best supervision early on in their training. The MFT program faculty without question provided excellent training and supervision that prepared me for success in my Ph.D. program and for my career."

JOHN SAWSYER, GRADUATE

"My time in the program has been invaluable to say the least! The support I received and the personal growth I experienced are lifelong gifts that I will take with me."

MELINDA BOWENS, GRADUATE

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM

Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Empowering Students
Building Relationships
Marriage and Family Therapy Program
MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Admission Requirements
- Acceptable scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75
- Submission of statement of personal and professional goals
- A personal interview with the clinical faculty of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program
- Emotional stability and maturity as evidenced through three letters of recommendation from previous professors (minimum of two letters) or employers (maximum of one letter)

Preference will be given to applications received prior to February 15; however, applications are accepted until all openings are filled.

Applicants to the Marriage and Family Therapy Program are selected and admitted without discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, color, creed, ethnic or national origin, physical disability or sexual orientation. These provisions also apply to handicapped individuals pursuant to current federal and state regulations subject to reasonable standards of admission and employment.

ADMISSION INTO CLINICAL COMPONENT OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM
Clinical readiness is assessed prior to a student having face-to-face client contact. This assessment will include the following:
- faculty feedback related to the student's readiness to begin the clinical component
- a pen and paper instrument designed to highlight the strengths and challenges of the student's personality in relation to the student's development as a helping professional

CONTINUATION IN THE CLINICAL COMPONENT OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM
Faculty and students develop goals for personal and professional growth. Evaluation of students will occur each semester by the faculty prior to moving to the next level of practicum.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Financial aid is available through graduate assistantships, scholarships, clinical externships and grants.
- Assistantships: Indicate interest on application and submit a résumé to the director.
- Clinical Externships: Students in clinical practicum may be eligible for paid assistantships through arrangements with community mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals and other sites.
- Scholarships: The Department of Child and Family Studies has a variety of scholarship opportunities available to students. Information can be found on our website.
- Grants: Faculty often have service and research grants that provide opportunities for students.

The Marriage and Family Therapy Program at The University of Southern Mississippi provided me with a solid educational background to excel in any clinical setting as a marriage and family therapist. In addition, the program's component on personal growth and discovery has enabled me to gain self-confidence and determination in my professional pursuits. The clinical and interpersonal skills learned in this program are beneficial in any professional setting and have helped to prepare me for a competitive work environment.” LISA, GRADUATE
Our Strengths

- Onsite therapy clinic that serves the needs of Mississippi's high-risk children, youth and families
- Broad-based clinical training utilizing both modern and postmodern methods and interventions
- Strong faculty-student mentoring
- Biopsychosocial perspective emphasizing resiliency and strength
- Clinical opportunities for practice in community mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment, and alcohol and drug treatment facilities
- Success in preparing students for advanced graduate degrees
- Success in preparing students for state licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

The University Clinic for Family Therapy

Our campus clinic allows students to develop clinical skills working with individuals, groups, couples and families in a closely supervised supportive environment. Student-therapists see clients from multiple counties in South Mississippi with a wide variety of presenting problems, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Couple distress/conflict
- Intimate violence
- Anxiety and mood disorders
- Family stress
- Parent-child problems
- Life transition adjustments

Curriculum

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS
- Theories of MFT I
- Theories of MFT II

CLINICAL PRACTICE
- Pre-practicum in MFT
- Practicum in MFT (minimum 21 hours)
- Couple Therapy
- Assessment and Diagnosis in Family Therapy I
- Assessment and Diagnosis in Family Therapy II

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY RELATIONS
- Individual and Family Life-Cycle Development
- Parents and Children: Problem Resolution
- Gender and Culture in the Family

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND ETHICS
- Professional Practice of MFT
- Ethics in MFT

RESEARCH
- Practice of Family Research

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS
- 500 hours face-to-face client contact
- Individual and relational combined
- 200 relational contact hours
- 100 hours of supervision minimum

Minimum Credit Hours in Program – 60

Marriage and Family Therapy Faculty and Staff

Heath Gromes  Ph.D., LMFT  Program Director

Stacie Frey  M.S., LMFT  Clinic Director

Pat Sims  Ed.D., LMFT

Jeff Hinton  Ph.D., LMFT  Department Chair

Pam Clark  Ph.D., LMFT

Sarah Garrison  M.S., LMFT